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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

AMERICAN APPLES MEETING MORE COMPETITION IN SHANGHAI

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The United States and Canada are the principal sources of choice apples in Shanghai, China, but heavier supplies from competing sources, high prices, and the unfavorable exchange rate are restricting the demand for American apples at the present time, according to a radiogram from Agricultural Commissioner Paul O. Nyhus at Shanghai. The bulk of domestic apples now in the Shanghai market is from Chefoo and consists of early varieties which normally are largely off the market this date. This season, however, considerable quantities are still available and there is an improvement in the quality. The bulk of sales is still of Chefoo varieties among which is quite a choice sweet, yellow winter variety packed in sixteen pound boxes.

Apples from Japan and Korea are admittedly inferior in taste and texture to American and Canadian apples, but due to lower prices considerable quantities of different red varieties are being sold, states Mr. Nyhus. Supplies of Korean apples are especially large this year. Current retail prices in the produce markets for Korean and Japanese apples are seven to eight pounds per Mexican dollar (37.5 cents American at prevailing exchange), the same for Chefoo, and for American five and one-half pounds per dollar. Supplies of competitive varieties have restricted the orders placed for American apples and are curtailing the absorption of American arrivals. Business for future delivery beyond present contracts is very quiet, pending a more rapid movement of current arrivals. Some orders for January shipment have been canceled because of the slow local market.

Both gold pieces and the exchange rate have created materially higher local prices in silver currency compared to last season. Wine-saps, sizes 234 and 252, are usually good sellers in Shanghai. Costs this year are about gold \$2.50 per box c.i.f. Shanghai compared to gold \$2.10 last year. With exchange rate at 54 and 64 respectively, the resulting silver prices are Shanghai taels 4.63 this year compared with 3.28 last year. The bulk of consumption of foreign apples is in Shanghai but some dealers do a small business to out ports and this has been interrupted by recent uprisings and dangerous shipping conditions in the interior. There is tendency toward a larger market in China for choice American apples but the foregoing conditions are expected to reduce importation from the United States and Canada compared to last season. Sources of gross imports at Shanghai for the crop year ending June 30, 1929 were: American 36,000 bushels of 48 pounds, Canada 16,000 bushels, Japan 5,278, and Korea 1,389. Supplies from native sources, mostly Chefoo, were 203,000 bushels. Arrivals from native sources this season to date have amounted to 222,000 bushels.

